

well. Thank you Mr. Wolters and Mr. Russell for your quick thinking and heroic actions. You both symbolize the greatness that is America.

CONGRATULATIONS TO UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN BADGERS BASKETBALL TEAM

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 30, 2000*

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the University of Wisconsin basketball team for their outstanding season which was recently gloriously culminated with their trip to the Final Four!

The Badgers capped their NCAA tournament bid with astounding victories over Fresno State, Arizona, LSU, and Purdue. This is the first time since 1941 that the Badgers have been to the Final four. Not only have they shocked the world of college basketball, but they have also illustrated that we should never count out a victory when there is an amazing combination of both talent and heart.

The Badgers have had an exceptional season which I hope is the beginning of a lasting legacy. I congratulate both Coach Bennett and the team on an outstanding start to such a fulfilling goal. These NCAA Tournament games have illustrated that they have what it takes to be successful for years to come.

The entire Badger's team along with coach Bennett won a birth to the Final Four because they have the spirit that makes every University of Wisconsin student proud to be a Badger. I commend their exemplary performance for both the University and the entire State of Wisconsin. I would like to thank them for giving us such an exciting season and congratulate them on their monumental success. Most important, I would like to wish them luck in their quest to win a National Championship. They should be assured that myself and the entire State of Wisconsin will be rooting for them this weekend.

SALUTING THE LIFE AND WORK OF MATTHEW "MACK" ROBINSON

**HON. JAMES E. ROGAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 30, 2000*

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, my district and our nation lost a great hero. On Sunday, March 12, Matthew "Mack" Robinson died from complications associated with diabetes. Mack is a legend not just in the Pasadena area, but around the world. Mack's life is a testament to hard work and determination; he was a proud, humble, public servant who was admired by all.

Mack was born in Cairo, Georgia 88 years ago. He then moved to Pasadena at age 6. His work helped to lead Pasadena from segregation to unification. Today Pasadena is one of the most diverse communities in the nation.

Mack attended Pasadena public schools, after graduating from Muir Technical High School and attending Pasadena Junior College. He shined as an athlete; many said it ran in the family. His younger brother Jackie

was one of baseball's greatest. Mack was a record-setter in high school, and a state champion.

At Pasadena College, he competed to join another great, Jesse Owens, on the 1936 Olympic team. When the team traveled to Berlin, Mack ran in the same shoes he wore in Pasadena. He success came from raw talent, grit, and determination.

Sadly, after returning home, Mack did not encounter the open arms he found on the track in Berlin. He attended the University of Oregon, only to return home when hardship struck his family. Mack moved back to Pasadena to support his family, and began work with the city of Pasadena. Anecdotes abound of a smiling Mack proudly wearing his USA Olympic sweatshirt while he worked—often sweeping streets—in and around Pasadena.

As the New York Times reported, Mack lost his job when the city fired all black employees in a desegregation battle. While others sat idly by, Mack turned his efforts to his fellow Pasadenans. He began a lifetime of service and volunteerism in the community, never asking a penny in payment or recognition. His actions spoke louder than words.

Not long ago, the city of Pasadena saluted the contributions of Mack and his brother Jackie by erecting a monument to the two men near city hall. It is a fitting tribute to the lives of these two prominent Pasadena residents.

But Mr. Speaker an even more fitting tribute will be when my colleagues here today join me in saluting from the well of the House, the life, the work, and the legacy of Matthew Mack Robinson.

THE DEFEAT OF THE FLAG PROTECTION AMENDMENT

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 30, 2000*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to briefly comment on yesterday's unfortunate vote in the Senate on the Flag Protection Amendment.

As many of my colleagues know, the Senate failed to pass the amendment by the necessary two-thirds majority, which would have sent the amendment to the States for ratification. The House had earlier passed this amendment by more than the required majority.

Following the vote, the American Legion national commander issued a profound statement expressing his organization's disappointment with the vote. I would like to include a copy of National Commander Alan G. Lance Sr's remarks for the RECORD, because I believe it summarizes the frustration felt by many of our veterans with the Senate's continued failure to approve this amendment.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 29, 2000).—After 11 years and countless resolutions and bills, letters, phone calls, meetings, rallies, and speeches, it is with deep disappointment that we stand here today and witness the defeat of Senate Joint Resolution 14, the Flag Protection Amendment.

This vote represents a quantum shift in the balance of power that makes our democracy the envy of the world. The individual flag-burner is not nearly as much of a threat

to our democracy as the belief, held by a minority of senators, that an amendment supported by 49 states and a poll-validated super-majority of the American people is somehow invalid.

What some senators fear, more than an amendment to protect the flag from acts of physical desecration, is that the American people will take control of their government. Such resistance to the will of the people will leave the people no other alternative but to convene a constitutional convention, which The American Legion would not advocate.

For 11 years, we have come to this place. We have told our stories about the Flag—how it led us into battle, how it comforted us in faraway lands, how it embraced our fallen brothers and sisters, how it marked the resting place of heroes, how it led us home with parades and pageantry, how it represents more than cloth and colors.

For 11 years, we have represented tens of millions of Americans, serving as a megaphone for a simple, sweeping, and united call to protect the Flag.

For 11 years, we have tried to break the stranglehold of a minority that has flouted the will of an entire nation, its states and their people.

Today, we have lost this battle, and I must admit that I fear we are losing much more. Could it be that "we the people" and the states are losing control of our democratic republic?

The very idea of representative democracy presupposes that elected officials follow the will of the people. Senators have told us that calls, letters, and emails poured into their offices in support of this amendment. I was even told that calls were 100 percent in favor of the amendment in some offices.

If the Senate refuses to follow the will of the people on an issue so clear-cut, so broadly supported as the Flag Protection Amendment, then is this really a republic? Is this really our government?

In the aftermath of this vote, I am not sure how to answer those questions. It is little wonder why so many people are flocking to third parties or opting out of the political process altogether.

In spite of all of this, I have not lost all hope. A new day and a new Congress await us in the not-too-distant future. And people like Senator Hatch and Senator Cleland who with many others will continue to stand with us. They have my deepest appreciation and respect for their steadfast support and brave bipartisan leadership on this issue.

Perhaps this defeat will serve as a wake-up call for America. Perhaps it will inspire us to fight harder. Perhaps it will prompt us to remind our senators—in a not-so subtle way—that they work for us, not us for them.

I refuse to believe that fighting this battle was in vain. We have learned; we have grown; we have rallied a nation. And so, we will not stand down. We will not go away.

We will not surrender. We will continue this struggle until our federal government is put back into balance, and the people's prerogative honored.

HONORING KURTH COTTAGE OF VALLEY HOSPITAL IN RIDGEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

**HON. MARGE ROUKEMA**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 30, 2000*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Kurth Cottage of Valley Hospital in Ridgewood, New Jersey on its 50th anniversary of